

Idaho 44 Corridor Preservation Study



Property Owner Meetings Summary

Project Name: Idaho 44 Corridor Preservation Study
Prepared for: Idaho Transportation Department
Prepared by: RBCI

Overview

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is studying Idaho 44 from the city of Eagle to I-84 in Caldwell to determine future highway improvements. This study is called the *Idaho 44 Corridor Preservation Study*.

Options to improve the highway have been developed by ITD with input from the project team and the public. The preferred option widens the existing route and includes a bypass south of the city of Middleton.

ITD hosted four property owner meetings. Representatives from local jurisdictions were also invited. The meetings were held:

Tuesday, July 31, 2012
4 – 6 p.m. & 6 – 8:30 p.m.
Middleton High School
1538 Emmett Road
Middleton, Idaho 83644

Thursday, August 2, 2012
4 – 6 p.m. & 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.
City of Eagle – City Hall
660 E. Civic Lane
Eagle, Idaho 83616

The purpose of the meetings was to give property owners adjacent to the corridor an opportunity to learn more about the project and speak with an ITD representative about how the proposed improvements could affect property(ies).

A total of 46 people attended the property owner meetings and nine people gave written comments.

Preparation and Notification

Preparation for the property owner meetings began several months in advance. The public involvement team prepared a detailed meeting plan that outlined the meeting purpose, event logistics, comment sheet questions and display boards. Study leaders and public involvement staff worked together to review all materials before the meeting.

ITD mailed a personal letter to 388 property owners adjacent to the Idaho 44 corridor. The letter notified the property owners of the meeting and informed them that this would be an opportunity to speak individually with project



representatives to discuss issues, concerns and/or ideas. Enclosed with the letter was an insert that listed the dates, times and locations of all the meetings, so property owners could attend whichever meeting worked best for their schedule.

Meeting Format

Attendees were greeted at the door and asked to sign in. A member of the public involvement team gave a brief overview of the meeting and encouraged each attendee to ask questions and leave comments. The meeting included:

- **Project displays** — Maps of the project showing improvements were displayed and project staff was available to answer questions. Property owners and residents were be greeted and directed toward the maps at the start of the meeting. Displays included:
 - Welcome
 - Next steps
 - Map of the project area
 - Maps of Segment 1: I-84 to Canyon Lane
 - Maps of Segment 2: Canyon Lane to Duff Lane
 - Maps of Segment 3: Duff Lane to Blessinger Road
 - Maps of Segment 4: Blessinger Road to Idaho 16
 - Maps of Segment 5: Idaho 16 to Ballantyne Lane
- **Comments** — Comment forms were provided and property owners could submit written comments after viewing maps.
- **Computer** – A laptop computer and projector were available for property owners and residents who wanted a closer view of the segments (with assistance from a project representative).



Property Owner Comments

Nine property owners completed the comment form at the meeting. Commonly heard themes and notable comments included:

- Concerns about how the improvements will impact private property along the corridor
- Taxpayer dollars would be better spent to widen U.S. 20/26 instead of Idaho 44
- Widening Idaho 44 is important
- Safety should be a priority
- The City of Middleton and ITD must work closely together to attain right-of-way prior to development

The transcription of all comments, invitation letter, comment sheet, list of meeting attendees and display boards are available on the following pages of this summary.

Idaho 44 Corridor Preservation Study

Comment Form Transcription

July 31 & Aug. 2, 2012

#	Comments/Questions
1	It appears with the expansion of Hwy 20-26 from Boise to Caldwell already under construction and traffic signals already in place from Middleton Road to Boise, taxpayer dollars would be better spent to finish Hwy 20/26. Two lanes each way.
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It appears that there isn't a "NEED" to expand HWY 44 – beyond HWY 16 - A more urgent "NEED" would be to widen HWY 20/26 – from Eagle Road thru to freeway system in Caldwell – reason – fewer homes and peaceful lifestyle would be disrupted – if HWY 20/26 were widened – instead of HWY 44! - It would be a better use of taxpayer dollars to widen HWY 20/26!
3	No comments.
4	I am okay with concepts.
5	Next time, how about notifying us that a meeting will take place, especially if you are going to take a chunk out of our property and block a runoff ditch.
6	City of Middleton & ITD must work closely together to preserve & attain ROW prior to development within the proposed ROW
7	<p>If proposed road takes to the right of way, my house will be on the road. Stop light at Channel should be a long way off. That's sort of a dumb place for it.</p> <p>I want ITD to buy my house if all of right-of-way is taken on my side of the road as it would be unsafe to live there. Fair market price.</p>
8	<p>Taking land from both sides of the current highway seem fair for everyone. The widening of Hwy 44 is vital.</p> <p>The proposed route of Segment 2 is the safest for the protection of Middleton's youth. Middleton's business might not like the road going around the town but the youth should come first! We've lost too many already.</p>
9	<p>The employees were very kind and gracious.</p> <p>Hopefully, there will be a center lane area in the future plan of the highway. (all the way)</p>



IDAHO TRANSPORTATION DEPARTMENT
P.O. Box 8028
Boise, ID 83707-2028

(208) 334-8300
itd.idaho.gov

July 19, 2012

Dear Property Owner:

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is studying Idaho 44 from the city of Eagle to I-84 in Caldwell to determine future highway improvements. This study is called the *Idaho 44 Corridor Preservation Study*.

Options to improve the highway have been developed by ITD with input from the project team and the public. The preferred option widens the existing route and includes a bypass south of the city of Middleton. To view a map of the proposed improvements, please visit the project website at: www.itd.idaho.gov/projects/d3/SH44Corridor.

ITD invites you to attend a meeting to learn more about the project and speak with a project representative about how proposed improvements could affect your property(ies). Please plan on attending:

Tuesday, July 31

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. OR 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
(There will be no formal presentation.)

Middleton High School

1538 Emmett Rd. | Middleton, ID 83644

Please park on the back side of the school using Willis Road

Thursday, August 2

4 p.m. to 6 p.m. OR 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.
(There will be no formal presentation.)

City of Eagle- City Hall

660 E. Civic Ln. | Eagle, ID 83616

Property owners and residents adjacent to the corridor will have the opportunity to speak individually with project representatives to discuss issues, concerns and ideas.

If you are unable to attend any of the meetings, you can send an e-mail to comments@itd.idaho.gov or call (208) 334-8964.

More information regarding the project is also available on the ITD website at: www.itd.idaho.gov/projects/D3/SH44Corridor.

We hope you will provide your input on this important project.

Sincerely,

Aaron Bauges
Project Manager
Idaho Transportation Department

2. Questions

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Visit the project website for more information:

<http://itd.idaho.gov/Projects/D3/SH44Corridor/>



Middleton



Star

Eagle

Welcome

The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) is studying Idaho 44 from the city of Eagle to I-84 in Caldwell to determine future improvements. This study is called the *Idaho 44 Corridor Preservation Study*.

The purpose of today's meeting is to give property owners potentially impacted by this project an opportunity to:

- **Review the preferred option being considered to improve Idaho 44**
- **Speak with a representative from the ITD**
- **Learn next steps in the study process**



Next Steps

Thank you for attending tonight's meeting.

- The Idaho Transportation Department (ITD) will review and respond to your comments.
- Watch for an Idaho 44 Corridor Preservation Study newsletter this fall.
- ITD anticipates holding the public hearing this winter:
 - You will have the opportunity to review and comment on the environmental report and proposed improvements.
- ITD will begin designing and constructing improvements to the corridor when funding becomes available.

